Protection of culture from superstitions

3733. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made any attempt to insulate culture from traditional superstitious belief which are doing tremendous harm to the country;

(b) if not, whether Government would make a study of the subject; and

(c) the details of Government's approach in the matter in view of the clear provisions in the Constitution of India?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Efforts to promote scientific temper in the society are an ongoing process. Under Article 51A of the Constitution of India, it is one of the fundamental duties of every citizen to develop the scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform.

Spread of education in general, and science education in particular, is a major component of Government's approach to the subject. The National Council of Science Museums, an automous organization under the Ministry of Culture, is engaged in popularizing and creating awareness in science and technology amongst students in particular and the masses in general, through a wide range of activities and interactive programmes. To supplement the science education imparted in schools and colleges so as to foster a spirit of scientific enquiry and creativity amongst the students is one of the primary objectives of this Council.

Multipurpose cultural complex in Chhattisgarh

†3734. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chhattisgarh has sought 50 per cent contribution for multipurpose cultural complex and the same has been granted;

(b) whether Government is providing this amount lumpsum or in instalments; and

(c) the details of contribution provided so far and future plan thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In two instalments.

(c) A proposal for setting up of Multipurpose Cultural Complex at Raipur, Chhattisgarh was sanctioned by Government of India in the year 2004. The project cost of Rs. 200 lakhs was to be shared in equal proportion by Central Government and State Government. Full Central Government share of Rs. 100 lakhs has been released in two instalments of Rs. 25 lakhs and Rs. 75 lakhs in December, 2004 and March 2008 respectively. On completion, the MPCC will be maintained and utilized by State Government as major cultural resource centre for the region.

Renovation work of Thousand Pillars Temple in Andhra Pradesh

3735. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether the renovation and reconstruction work of the Thousand Pillars Temple of Warrangal in Andhra Pradesh got stalled due to the differences between the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and the National Institute of Technology (NIT);

(b) if so, whether Government has directed the ASI to resume the renovation work of the Temple;

(c) if so, the details thereof and when the work is expected to commence; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) No, Sir. There is no difference between Archaeological Survey of India and to National Institute of Technology, Warrangal about the renovation and (b) reconstruction work of the Thousand Pillars Temple of Warrangal in Andhra Pradesh. The loose soil below the foundation has already been compacted to achieve the desired density. NIT has given ASI a design for further improvement of soil bed by use of granular piles, without use of cement and steel. Necessary bids have been invited as per the NIT design and are being processed. ASI will be able to resume the work once the bids are finalized.

Celebration of Centenary of Guru-Ta-Gaddi

3736. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that country is celebrating the centenary of Guru-Ta-Gaddi of Guru Granth Sahib in October, 2008;

(b) whether the State Government of Punjab has sent a detailed project report for Talwandi Sab and Anandpur Sahib; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to approve and sanction the proposal of the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government have approved the development projects of Anandpur Sahib and Talwandi Sab for an amount of Rs. 9973.77 lakhs and Rs. 7984.00 lakhs respectively.

Cultural exchange programme

†3737. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of countries with whom India has cultural exchange relationship and the details of programmes organised during the last three years alongwith the present session for this purpose;

(b) the details of expenditure earmarked for the said programmes;

(c) whether Indian Cultural Centres have also been set up abroad; and

(d) if so, the details of working of these centres?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi